

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-03 IO-03 L-02 CIEP-01 EA-13 TRSE-00

NEA-06 MBFR-02 DRC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 /080 W

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R 211805Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4155

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 10877

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EEC, UK, US

SUBJECT: BRITISH VIEWS ON US-EC DIALOGUE

REF: LONDON 10598

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS ON SEPTEMBER 21, TWO OFFICIALS OF THE FCO'S EUROPEAN INTEGRATION DEPARTMENT (MICHAEL BUTLER AND WILLIAM MARSDEN) DISCUSSED THE EC DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. BUTLER IS THE UK REPRESENTATIVE ON THE EC GROUP OF CORRESPONDENTS. MARSDEN WILL GO TO NEW YORK NEXT WEEK WITH OLIVER WRIGHT, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC AND
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EC MATTERS IN THE FCO, AND IS ALSO THE UK REPRESENTATIVE

ON THE EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

2. BUTLER AND MARSDEN BOTH CONSIDER THE AGREEMENT ON A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO BE A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT. THE NINE HAVE MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS SINCE JULY, WHEN IT LOOKED AS THOUGH THEY MIGHT NEVER ARRIVE AT A COMMON POSITION. BUTLER REITERATED (SEE REFTEL) THAT THE UK PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT THIS AGREEMENT BY TABLING A DRAFT WHICH OMITTED ANY EXPLICIT REFERENCES TO DEFENSE ISSUES, AND WHICH THE FRENCH COULD THEREFORE ACCEPT AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. MARSDEN STRESSED THAT A NUMBER OF FACTORS MAKE IT "ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE" FOR THE NINE TO ADOPT A COMMON POSITION AT THIS STAGE ON AN ISSUE LIKE BURDEN SHARING. THESE FACTORS INCLUDE: THE STRONG FRENCH OPPOSITION TO RAISING DEFENSE QUESTIONS IN THE EC POLITICAL COOPERATION MACHINERY; THE FACT THAT FRANCE DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN A NUMBER OF NATO ACTIVITIES; THE ABSENCE OF ANY INSTITUTIONAL LINKS BETWEEN THE EC AND NATO; AND THE FACT THAT IRELAND IS NOT A MEMBER OF NATO.

3. MARSDEN SAID THAT THE FINISHING TOUCHES WERE PUT ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ONLY A FEW HOURS BEFORE IT WAS HANDED OVER IN WASHINGTON. BOTH HE AND BUTLER SAID THEY WERE IMPRESSED BY THE EXPEDITIOUS WAY IN WHICH THE EC PERMREPS DRAFTED THE PARAGRAPHS WHICH WERE ASSIGNED TO THEM. MARSDEN NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE LINK BETWEEN THE EC POLITICAL COOPERATION MACHINERY ON THE ONE HAND AND THE COUNCIL AND COMMISSION ON THE OTHER, WHICH WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED IN RELATION TO THE CSCE, IS BEING STRENGTHENED.

4. MARSDEN SAID THAT THE EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN NEW YORK ON THE DAY AFTER DANISH FONMIN ANDERSEN MEETS WITH SECRETARY-DESIGNATE KISSINGER. THE

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 10877

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REACTION TO THE EC DECLARATION AT LUNCH ON THE
FOLLOWING DAY. THE NEXT PROCEDURAL STEPS WILL DEPEND
ON THE RESULTS OF THESE MEETINGS.

5. ON THE "EUROPEAN IDENTITY PAPER," MARSDEN SAID THERE
IS STILL A WIDE "PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCE" BETWEEN
FRANCE AND THE UK. THE FRENCH DRAFT, WHICH SEEKS TO
SYNTHESIZE SEVERAL DRAFTS INCLUDING AN ORIGINAL
BRITISH PAPER, HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS A BASIS FOR
DISCUSSION, ALTHOUGH BUTIER SAID IT WAS SOMETIMES A BIT
DIFFICULT TO RECOGNIZE
THE ORIGIN OF EACH POINT. THE PAPER WILI PROBABLY
BEGIN WITH A LARGELY HORTATORY DESCRIPTION OF THE
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COMMON EUROPEAN HERITAGE, AND THEN DESCRIBE THE
"EUROPEAN IDENTITY" IN RELATION TO VARIOUS AREAS. THESE
SECTIONS WOULD SEEK TO LAY DOWN GUIDELINES FOR EUROPEAN
RELATIONS WITH THESE AREAS. THERE IS NO DEADLINE FOR
COMPLETION OF THE PAPER, ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT
MAY PROVIDE AN INDUCEMENT TO COMPLETE THE SECTION
DEALING WITH THE UNITED STATES.

6. BUTLER SAID THAT HMG HAS NO POSITION YET ON THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE US-EUROPEAN
DIALOGUE, BEYOND THE REFERENCE TO "COOPERATION WITH

INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES" IN THE DECLARATION OF
PRINCIPLES. A POSITION WILL, HOWEVER, BE REQUIRED BY
THE TIME TANAKA VISITS LONDON ON SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 3.

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